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**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/709,599

Applicant(s)

OHMORI, TADASHI

Examiner

Long Nguyen

Art Unit

2816

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the application filed 5/17/04 and the IDS filed on 7/21/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-9.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 17 May 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
    1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)            |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date <u>7/21/04</u> | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                    |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material                              | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance   |
|   | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____.   |

### EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Anthony Canale on 6/21/05.

The application has been amended as follows:

#### In The Specification

On line 4 of page 11, "fist" has been changed to --first--.

On line 6 of page 15, "where 3.3V-V<sub>thN8</sub>" has been changed to --V<sub>thN8</sub>--.

#### In The Claims

Claim 1, line 9, "input" has been deleted.

Claim 1, line 13-14, "input" has been deleted.

Claim 3, line 10, "the output" has been changed to --an output--.

Claim 3, line 11, "circuit and" has been changed to --circuit that provides said intermediate signal and--.

Claim 3, line 12, "output signals from the" has been changed to --an output signal from one of the--.

Claim 6, line 2, "means" has been changed to --circuit--.

Claim 6, line 4-5, "electric potential" has been changed to --voltage--.

Claim 7, line 1, "analog signals" has been changed to --an external signal--.

Art Unit: 2816

Claim 7, line 4, "an" has been changed to --the--.

Claim 7, line 4, "input" has been deleted.

Claim 7, line 6, "input" has been deleted.

Claim 7, line 10, "input" has been deleted.

Claim 7, line 20, "the" has been changed to --an--.

Claim 8, line 1-2, "7, wherein the method includes:" has been changed to --further comprising:--.

Claim 8, line 3, "output of" has been changed to --control circuit from outputting--.

Claim 9, line 4-5, "an input voltage to the receiver" has been changed to --the external signal--.

Claim 9, line 7, "an input voltage" has been changed to --the external signal--.

#### **Reasons For The Above Changes**

The above changes have been made to overcome the minor informalities in the specification and in the claim and to overcome the indefiniteness in the claims so that the claims are clear.

#### **REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

2. Claims 1-9 are allowed. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1 and 7 are allowed because the prior art of record fails to disclose or suggest a circuit or a method thereof which includes all of the limitations of these claims. In particular, the prior art of record fails to disclose or suggest a circuit including, in combination with other

Art Unit: 2816

limitations, a control circuit that receives the external signal and output a first control signal and a second control signal when the external signal is higher than a first voltage, a clamp circuit clamps the intermediate signal to a second voltage lower than the first voltage in response to receiving the first control signal, and a level keeper that pulls the intermediate signal up to a third voltage less than or equal to the third voltage in response to receiving the second control signal as called in these claims.

Claims 2-6 and 8-9 are allowed because they depend on claims 1 and 7, respectively.

3. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### *Conclusion*

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directly to Examiner Long Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-1753. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Thursday from 8:00am to 6:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tim Callahan, can be reached at (571) 272-1740. The fax number for this group is (703) 872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

Art Unit: 2816

system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

June 21, 2005

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Long Nguyen', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**LONG NGUYEN**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**